

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The presence of various subnormal social conditions tends to degrade the quality of a neighborhood. If given a choice, one is less inclined to move into an area festered with crime, abound with welfare cases or prevalent with communicable diseases. These conditions constitute the social causes of blight. We do not wish to imply that by their physical removal or transfer, blight will be eliminated and social problems solved. To improve the social environment often requires social planning, which lies beyond the scope of this analysis. It is a constructive first step, however, to identify these problems and to determine the severity thereof.

This human side of blight causes is given focus in this section. Seven social indices are employed for the analysis. The findings are as follows:

- I. Aid to Families with Dependent Children*: Out of a total of 85 needy cases in Little River Township, 23 cases are in the Town or its immediate outlying area. Of this, 9 are white families and 13 are nonwhite.
- II. Old Age Assistance*: Of a total of 37 cases reported, 19 are white and 18 are nonwhite. It is interesting to notice that, unlike many other indices of social blight, O.A.A. cases are not strictly associated with physical blight. Many of them are located in so-called sound neighborhoods.
- III. Aid to Permanently and Totally Disabled*: Fourteen cases are reported; of that total nine cases are nonwhite.
- IV. Venereal Disease*: In 1963, a total of six cases were reported in the immediate vicinity of the community. But only one case occurred within the town limits.
- V. Tuberculosis*: Only one case was reported during 1963 and it occurred outside of the town limits.
- VI. Illegitimate Births*: In 1963, a total of 18 cases was reported, 15 cases of which are nonwhites. Only five of the total, however, reside within the town limits. Six are repeated cases since 1960.
- VII. Places of Arrest: The State Bureau of Investigation reports that during 1963 a total of 631 cases were tried in the Local Court. The five most frequently encountered offenses are: Traffic (442 cases); assault (37 cases); forgeries (25 cases); disorderly conduct (15 cases); and domestic (9 cases). Over 75% of all arrests (other than traffic offenses) occurred in two places, the colored bar on Barbee Street east, and the bus station area along Gannon Avenue and Route 64.

* Information provided by the Wake County Welfare Department.